

international cooperation in forestry work-force matters. It is aimed at all who are concerned with the forestry work-force in the public and the private sectors: government officials from the forestry and labour departments, industry and labour representatives, forest work contractors, research workers, and trainers. In addition to the plenary sessions and working groups, there will be two half-day excursions in the vicinity of Corvallis.

Further information may be obtained from ECE-FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (Tel. 41 22 364 2211, Fax 41 22 734 3345), or from the undersigned.

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Important Prospect

FIRST GENEVA ENVIRONMENT MEETING (GEM)
'ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: CONFLICT OR
CONVERGENCE', TO BE HELD DURING 14-15 MAY
1992 AT THE HOTEL DES BERGUES, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND

Purpose:— The Geneva Environment Meetings are a new, long-term forum for discussion and cooperation at the environment-economy interface between decision-makers (those directly involved in the real action needed to solve, not merely identify, problems) in the public and private sectors, economists, scientists, and other experts in all relevant fields. They are intended to help create informed, practicable and effective public policy, and to promote private-sector involvement in its implementation, including specific projects. They supplement, and will be closely coordinated with, work under way in numerous international organizations already established in Geneva and elsewhere, and any to be created in future. They are not occasions for formal negotiation, but are designed rather to provide for frank, informal discussion, with minimal representational constraints.

Status and Character:— The Meetings' initial patrons are the Swiss Federal Department of the Interior, the Geneva Cantonal State Council, and the Geneva City Administrative Council. The Meetings are actively supported by the University of Geneva. Numerous intergovernmental and other international organizations already support the Meetings as institutional partners. The Meetings arise from a joint initiative of the public and private sectors, and are organized in a spirit of public service, independence, and impartiality — without commitment to any particular political, commercial, or regional, interest, and with a holistic and indeed global outlook.

Funding:— Initial funding is assured from both public and private institutions, who envisage a launch-period of five years to establish the Meetings on a secure, permanent basis. Further general funding would be welcome from interested sources. A contribution is made by subscriptions received in respect of individual participation in the Meetings. Any surplus income over expenditure is invested in future development of the Meetings.

Agenda of the First Meeting:— Shortly before the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is held in Rio de Janeiro, the first Geneva Environment Meeting will offer a specifically intellectual contribution of innovative economic, legal, and institutional, ideas; will summarize the agenda for the formal negotiations to be held; will review relevant intergovernmental negotiations during the past twenty years, those now continuing, and public policies already in place and under development; will provide comment by senior public and private-sector leaders who will not participate directly in the Rio Conference; and will include a debate on environmental problems in their widest context — including ethics, philosophy, and religion. Discussion will be oriented towards preparing a second Meeting, to be held late in 1992, when the emphasis will move to interpretation of the Rio Conference, implications for the private sector, and specific action. In preparing for the second Meeting, the first Meeting will also introduce several study-groups engaged in work on specific sectoral and regional problems, with a view to reaching concrete project conclusions. Needless to say, the entire operation will be scientifically-based, taking due cognizance of the latest scientific findings.

Participants:— Up to two hundred participants are expected at the first Meeting, including both national and international officials, scientific and other experts in all relevant fields, and business representatives — particularly from western Europe, but including a cross-section of opinion world-wide.

Languages:— Simultaneous translation will be provided between English and French, with other European languages if necessary.

Time and Place:— Discussions will be held between 0900 and 1800 on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 May, at the Hotel des Bergues in central Geneva, where participants can reserve bedroom accommodation directly, referring to the Meetings.

Further Information:— Inquiries will be welcome and should be addressed to the undersigned Meetings' Executive Director: J. David Laughton, at 58 rue de la Terrassière, CH-1207 Geneva, telephone +4122 7862324, telefax 7862526.

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Important Prospect

'OUR EUROPEAN COMMON GARDEN': AN EAST-WEST PARLIAMENTARY MEETING TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF A COMMON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN EUROPE, TO BE HELD IN THE PALAIS DE L'EUROPE, STRASBOURG, FRANCE, DURING 17-20 MAY 1992

This Parliamentary Conference is organized by GLOBE EC and will bring together for the first time representatives from all the Parliaments of Europe, including the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Their aim is to forge an environmental policy for all of the European Continent based on consideration of eight scientific papers which will be presented, respectively on instruments for